

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

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Finding: Funding – Capacity and Possibilities

Supplementing the replacement of the “merely urgent” with “the truly important”

A preceding F & R from this submitter dealt with the overarching goal of making the Lake Tahoe Basin a “forum and focal point” for forest health issues in the Western United States that could be shared with the **Western Governors’ Association**. This august body, with 19 members, has both dominion over, and an abiding interest in, solving the costly and continually deteriorating conditions of the forests.

The scope and scale of the ‘big tree’ forests in the west, suggest an obvious need to consolidate and focus on finding and applying solutions that will ameliorate the threat of increasingly larger and hotter fires, but in addition to the damage and danger to all ecosystem & human interests, working on healthier changed conditions that all can share will result in better economic value. There is a major symbiotic difference between price and cost – while the price of fighting fires gets higher and higher, the *costs* to all of us are approaching stratospheric in terms of the loss of ecosystem services which are part of our fundamental existence.

According to the work of Gretchen Daley of Stanford University, dollars and cents can not adequately account for what continually larger fire will do to our surroundings. Almost a cliché now is the word **crisis**, with its’ dual Chinese definitions of danger and opportunity – we now know the meaning of one, but we need a concerted emphasis of our own which defines the *other*. This is the one referred to in V-059 by Mr. Hicks and Mr.Upton. Merely fighting fires will not suffice – emphasizing & exploring better stewardship will answer a lot more dimensions than planning for catastrophies.

Finally, it is estimated that the Forest Service now uses 50% of its' meager financial resources to plan for the next fire season, and the California Division of Forestry added "and Fire Protection" before becoming simply "Cal Fire". These shifts in emphasis do not bode well for a future, as this means that the financial aspects constitute mere expenditure, even as they rise; stewardship issues afford more of an issue of investment in the future, if there is to be one.

The earlier submission would be irresponsible if it did not try to elaborate on funding, as resource funding withers under the weight of higher and higher prices. Fortunately, the belief is that societal forces are conspiring to offer significantly different funding scenarios, but they most likely will not have an interest in 'frittering away' investments with "piece meal" directions. This is the "packaging" aspect of Tahoe's prominence and cachet – and it is absolutely worth going after.

Background and Supporting Evidence: There is a really significant shift in the cultural attachment of the corporate and foundational worlds to increasingly support important social necessities. There are a number of 10 figure (00,000,000,000) corporate foundations that are increasingly interested in ways to contribute to solutions that will make the world a better place for their customers, clients, staff, and children – in short, humanity.

For instance, Bank of America early last year funded a 20 billion dollar sustainability initiative, and its' first project from that fund was to purchase a 50,000 acre pristine forest in Northern California, for \$ 65,000,000 – and this is but one example of efforts in restoring the ecosystems around us. Of the 100 largest economies in the world today, at least 51% are at the corporate level, which bodes well for considerably better organized and funded projects that need financial support. That is why one of the earlier comments (@ Granlibakken) of this submitter mentioned that the Commission's work "screamed out" for Public/Private participation.

It would also verify and clarify a later comment to the Wildland Fuels Committee: that, in my humble yet measured opinion, the issue had not yet been adequately framed. Considerable progress and movement can come with more innovative ways of determining how to correctly approach these problems. With the introduction to this Commission of the ongoing Cabinet-level M.O.U., a decidedly different direction for biomass (and biosolids as well) now exists on the horizon for applications soon to come on board. Using an old AT&T management axiom – (the 3P's) - **planning precedes performance**, we must prepare now if we are to have the metrics available, as multiple applications are not in short supply.

Committing resources to "more of the same" will only distract the emergence of new and better ways, which lead to vastly increased effectiveness and value in the use of taxpayer funds. Better value - less danger . . .

Recommendation: With significant scientific resources and facilities already at play in the Tahoe environment, and equally significant interest from the Public realm , with a topography conducive to controlled measurement of success and failure in sustainably economic directions, organizing another form of public/private enterprise would be warranted, as merely using more and more public funding is no longer viable. The larger societal issues of adequately indemnifying communities, municipal facilities and the citizenry's ability to offset their losses are all within the scope of future concern. Because this endeavor will also edify rural abilities to further their economic viability, it is, for obvious reasons, beyond the "mere" scope of forestry. Getting what is necessary to a 'new day' requires mobilizing a wider and wiser range of that which currently functions. Organizing and correctly framing these issues is vital to overcoming current constraints.

The recommendation is for convening an entity directed to mobilize state-of-the-art solutions, with an eye towards a very special public/private endeavor devoted to sharing what's learned.

Impacts of Implementation:

*With more of a "World View",
There is therefore less impact and more success . . .*

By creating a "Triad", one part 'forest health' with a conversation in the biomass direction, one part 'built environment' (ember/fire resistant materials combined with design principles of green building), and a foundation based in the realm of sustainability, this public/private endeavor would be grounded in the emerging arena of Life Cycle Assessment. . . (LCA)

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The 3 principles of life cycle assessment are underlined in bold below – the ones in between are global principles of sustainability:

- **embodied energy** This will render considerable (now hidden) value to biomass

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